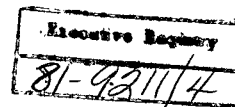


DCI

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505



21 December 1981

The Honorable Christopher J. Dodd
 United States Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dodd:

Thank you for the letter which you, along with Senators Tsongas and Pell, addressed to me on 11 December about the testimony presented by [redacted] to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the situation in Central America and the Caribbean. I have reviewed and had two other senior officials review [redacted] testimony. All of us are committed to the obligation to provide professional, impartial and balanced intelligence judgments to all Congressional Committees and policymakers.

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[redacted] did make questionable use of one unconfirmed report about "smuggling in Mexican and Guatemalan army uniforms for possible use in creating an incident," citing this as an example of "conspiracy politics" and "possible deceptive violence." Beyond that, we found [redacted] testimony reasonably balanced and sound. He and [redacted] of DIA and [redacted] who has been the principal CIA briefer on Central America, appear to have worked out their presentation together and believe that the presentation was fairly made.

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This is [redacted] first testimony as an intelligence officer. I am confident that he will understand and observe the distinction between intelligence assessments and foreign policy advocacy in his future appearances. In this instance, testimony from [redacted] was specifically requested in light of his deep knowledge of the area. This quality has already proven valuable and will continue to be valuable as he gains more experience in the role of an intelligence officer.

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I and my colleagues very much appreciate your bringing your concerns to our attention and I want to assure you that we intend to be diligent in seeing that testimony of the Intelligence Community is confined to intelligence assessments and does not spill over into foreign policy advocacy.

Sincerely,

William J. Casey

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